

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 13th July 1901.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(f)—Questions affecting the Land—	
Krupp guns for Afghanistan ...	413		
The South African war ...	ib.		
The pro-Boer feeling in England ...	ib.	Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—	
(a)—Police—		A grievance of the Barasat people ...	418
Public opinion and police reform ...	413	A complaint from Midnapore ...	ib.
The Calcutta Police ...	ib.		
Ditto ...	ib.	(h)—General—	
Ditto ...	414	Muhammadans in the Registration Department ...	419
Police reforms ...	ib.	Caste Proceedence Committees ...	ib.
Ditto ...	ib.	Ditto ...	ib.
Ditto ...	ib.	Ditto ...	ib.
Ditto ...	415	Ditto ...	ib.
Suspicious death at Sonarpore ...	ib.	Export duty on grain ...	ib.
Police outrage on a Gurkha woman ...	ib.	The High Court clerks ...	420
The mischievous propensities of the Indian Police ...	ib.	Hindu religious endowments ...	ib.
The Muzaffarpur Town Police ...	ib.		
(b)—Working of the Courts—		III.—LEGISLATION.	
The Hoff case ...	416	The British Indian Association election ...	420
Ditto ...	ib.	The zamindari seat in the Bengal Council ...	ib.
Ditto ...	ib.		
Ditto ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Ditto ...	ib.	The Chota Nagpur Chiefs ...	420
Ditto ...	ib.	The British Government and the petty Native States ...	ib.
Ditto ...	ib.		
Ditto ...	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Mr. Foley again ...	417	Distress in Assam ...	421
The Rangoon Pagoda case ...	ib.		
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	Army Commissions for Indians ...	421
		Lord Stanley of Alderley ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		Muhammadan converts to Christianity ...	ib.
Jail mortality ...	417	The Famine Union ...	ib.
		Peshwari and Cabuli desperadoes ...	ib.
(d)—Education—		The Cabuli nuisance ...	422
Nil.		The Congress movement in Bihar ...	ib.
		Dr. Welldon's "zeal" ...	ib.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Unwise acts that make towards disruption ...	ib.
Municipal zulum ...	418	Indians called to the Bar ...	ib.
An appeal to the District Board of Saran ...	ib.	A great public inconvenience ...	ib.
A barbarous procedure ...	ib.	A regrettable incident ...	ib.
		Assault on an Indian by a European ...	423

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1901. The following paragraph is taken from the *Moslem Chronicle* :—

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
29th June 1901.

Krupp guns for Afghanistan.

The Afghan Agent of the Ameer has left Bombay by mail boat for Germany. The object of this European journey is the purchase for Cabul of six batteries of Krupp guns. The sum of Rs. 6,40,000, part of the British subsidy, has already been paid in advance towards the purchase-money.

1902. In an article on the length of the war in South Africa, the

BENGALIEE,
3rd July 1901.

The South African War.

Bengalee comments on the uncertainty of the number of Boers now in the field, the mobility and resourcefulness of the Boer Generals, and the rumours that from time to time appear, notably the one that De Wet is insane.

The following is an extract from the article :—

" Their country has been devastated ; their farm-houses are blackened ruins ; their friends have been deported in shoals over the sea to foreign lands ; they have no hope of any extraneous assistance ; the Great Powers of Europe, alive only to their own interests, have one after the other declared their intention of not interceding Still the Boers are fighting on, their boldest leader a mad man, their highest trust in the Bible and in their rifles. It is a most extraordinary spectacle, unique in the history of the human race, etc."

1903. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, referring to the pro-Boer feeling now entertained in England, suggests that the wisest course for England is to be generous and retire honourably from the field.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th July 1901.

1904. In a later issue it says that the pro-Boer party in England,

BENGALIEE,
24th June 1901.

Ibid.

instead of laying stress on the inhumanity, which is a concomitant of all wars, should show the uselessness of the present war and the incalculable mischief it has done without any enhancement of England's prestige. The spectacle of 17,000 farmers keeping more than two lakhs of British soldiers at bay, is ridiculous, and the best course would be for England to offer generous terms to the Boers and then terminate the conflict.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1905. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains that while Government has

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd July 1901.

Public opinion and police reform.

undertaken to settle the question of Police reform, its plan appears to be to consult only its own officials, without courting the opinion of the leaders of the people, who are in a position to know what is really wanted. It is hoped that Lord Curzon will be pleased to issue an order to the effect that all official papers relating to the proposed police reform be placed at the disposal of the press and public associations, and that no definite line of action be adopted before the opinions of the general public are collected on the subject.

1906. The *Bengalee* is of opinion that the Calcutta Police is as much in

BENGALIEE,
5th July 1901.

The Calcutta Police.

need of improvement as the Bengal Police, and considers that new blood should be imported into the force to guard against the breeding of Osman Ali's. The *budmashes* of the mufassal often take refuge in Calcutta, and those engaged in the investigation of crime in the mufassal should be in a position to look after the *budmashes* in Calcutta. The Calcutta Police being a separate body, do not always feel interest in helping the Bengal Police to trace offenders, and thus the interests of justice suffer. The writer is distinctly in favour of the amalgamation of the Calcutta with the Bengal Police.

1907. In a second article on the subject the *Bengalee* repeats its opinion

BENGALIEE,
5th July 1901.

Ibid.

that the Calcutta Police should be amalgamated with the Bengal Police. It also regrets that of the eight Superintendents, only one is a pure Indian. In 1894 this matter was a subject of interpellation in Council, and Mr. Cotton's reply was that Indians were eligible for promotion.

They may be eligible for promotion, but somehow or other they never seem to be promoted. The number remains fixed at one, and the prospects of the Indians in the Calcutta Police show no signs of improvement.

BENGALIEE,
3rd July 1901.

1908. Referring to the allegations made against the Calcutta Police with regard to their extortionate habits and high-handedness in dealing with cartmen and hackney drivers, the *Bengalee* suggests that the reason why the constables have been able to carry on their tricks for so long, is probably that some of the money collected by them passes to the pockets of men higher up in the department.

It is inclined to question whether the posting of European constables in the Barra Bazar Section and on the Howrah Bridge will prove a remedy. A suggestion is made for a thorough enquiry into the matter by a representative Committee consisting of members of different public bodies, such as the Corporation of Calcutta, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the National Chamber, the Port Trust.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
29th June 1901.

1909. The *Hindoo Patriot* hails with delight the Police reforms initiated by Mr. Bright, and the steps that are being taken to give effect to them. It complains, however,

Ibid.

of the absence from the list of suggested reforms of the question of wider employment of Indians in the higher ranks. It suggests the appointment of a Commission, composed of officials and non-officials, to enquire into the subject of Police reform. The Commission, which should be of a roving nature, should be composed of a Barrister-Judge of the High Court (as President), a Member of the Board of Revenue, a District Judge, a Commissioner, a Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and the Inspector-General of Police, and among non-officials, such men as Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji, the Hon'ble Surendranath Banerjea.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
7th July 1901.

1910. *Power and Guardian* makes the following suggestions by way of solving this problem. The duties of head-constables should be confined to supervising the working of the

rank and file in watch and ward, sentry and other duties, but they should be paid for the pony kept for facilitating the discharge of their duties.

The pay of Sub-Inspectors should range from Rs. 60 to Rs. 120 by annual increments of Rs. 10. This would attract a better class of men. The grade of Rs. 30 should be retained as a probationary one.

Inspectors should start on Rs. 150, but they ought not to stop short on reaching the maximum, Rs. 250. As at present constituted, there is no particular attraction in the police service for a man of even average merit. Men are drawn to it only because they decide to earn more than their pay by objectionable methods. The writer therefore proposes that there should be European District Superintendents with a proportion of Indian officers, but the Indians should be allowed a free and unretarded passage up to the rank of Assistant District Superintendent with a maximum of Rs. 500, and that all police appointments below the rank of District Superintendent should be reserved for the children of the soil.

INDIAN NATION,
8th July 1901.

1911. Quoting several writers and speakers, the *Indian Nation* is convinced that the tendency to corruption on the part of the police, though natural in itself, has to a considerable extent been encouraged by the vicious system under which they have to work.

Ibid.

If the circular letter issued by Mr. Knyvett to District Superintendents is to be taken as indicative of the lines on which it is proposed to reform this system, then, says the writer, it is disappointing; and if, again, the circular in question emanated from the Government of India, the outlook cannot be said to be at all cheering, since it is evident from the circular that it is in contemplation to extend the employment of Europeans as police officers of all ranks. "We hold it to be an essential principle of reform in this department that qualified natives, having an intimate knowledge of the country, its people and language, should be appointed more extensively in the higher grades of the service as Assistant District Superintendents and even as District Superintendents. We do not consider it desirable to give extended employment to Europeans in the subordinate grades." While the writer considers any proposal for raising the

pay of the subordinate police as reasonable and likely to place them above ordinary temptations, he is of opinion that it is not the only safeguard against the evil tendency to corruption. He places more faith in the supervision and general attitude maintained by superior officers.

1912. In another article advocating the amalgamation of the Calcutta with the Bengal Police, the *Bengalee* says:—"Many

The Calcutta Police.

of the dacoities and robberies which the Bengal Police fail to detect, can be traced to up-country rogues living in the slums of Burra Bazar and Machua Bazar."

1913. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

Suspicious death at Sonarpore.

The following letter has just been forwarded to the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas:—

CALCUTTA,

The 6th July 1901.

F. F. LYALL, Esq., I.C.S., Alipore Magistracy.

SIR,—I beg to bring to your notice that yesterday evening while I was passing by the road in front of the Sonarpore police-station, I found a man sitting there under police custody, and some enquiry about a theft case was going on with him. The man had a cut in his right leg. This morning I found this very man lying dead in the Sonarpore Road at a distance of about 500 yards from the police-station. Will you kindly have an immediate enquiry made as to the cause of death of this unfortunate man.

I hope the matter will receive your personal attention.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HARENDRA KRISHNA PAL.

It has been reported to us that there is great sensation at Sonarpore and the neighbourhood over this matter. We hope Mr. Lyall will make a prompt inquiry into it.

1914. *Power and Guardian* relates from the *Sylhet Weekly Chronicle* a story of a Gurkha woman being locked up all night in the police-station at Silchar, because she refused to gratify the immoral desires of some

Police outrage on a Gurkha woman.

Babus (Police officers apparently).

An enquiry into the woman's complaint has been made by a Sub-Inspector, and the police defence is that the woman was locked up for being drunk. She is now threatened with a prosecution under section 211. *Power and Guardian* appeals to the Chief Commissioner, who alone can vindicate the cause of justice in a case like this.

1915. The *Indian Empire* invites the attention of the Inspector-General of Police to a case, furnishing another instance of the mischievous propensities of the Indian Police.

The mischievous propensities of the Indian Police.

It would appear that on the 20th June last, Babu Triguna Charan Ghose, the booking clerk of the Bengal and North-Western Railway at Samastipur, was charged by a beggar with breach of trust in respect of two annas. The Railway Police arrested him, hand-cuffed and lodged him in jail. He was released on bail, and subsequently acquitted by the Joint-Magistrate.

A respectable man was thus subjected to unnecessary hardships and indignities. The law doubtless invests the police with very large powers, but there should be some protection from their mischief and recklessness.

NOTE.—The Assistant Inspector-General has been addressed on the subject.

1916. Referring to a recent case in which a police constable was tried at the Muzaffarpur Sessions and found guilty of murder, the *Behar Herald* says:—"A deplorable

The Muzaffarpur Town Police.

state of police administration of the town of Muzaffarpur, transpired during the course of the trial, which it is understood is already engaging the attention of the District Magistrate."

BENGALIAN,
9th July 1901.

BENGALIAN,
7th July 1901.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
7th July 1901.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th July 1901.

BEHAR HERALD,
10th July 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

INDIAN NATION,
1st July 1901.

1917. The *Indian Nation* thinks the Government should send for the records of the Cawnpore Hoff case. The objection frequently urged to a Hindu jury is that it rarely

The Hoff case.

resists appeals to mercy, and that it is swayed by prejudices of caste, race and religion. "It would seem that in many cases an English jury in India has its mind swayed by similar disturbing influences. Sooner or later the question will have to be raised if the right of European prisoners to claim to be tried by a jury of their own countrymen does not require to be modified or curtailed."

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd July 1901.

1918. The *Indian Mirror* regards the acquittal of Mr. Hoff and the two Muhammadan accused in the Cawnpore emigration case as being "one of the worst cases

Ibid.

that ever was on record of criminal trials in British India." Since the principal accused was a European, six European jurors pronounced all the accused not guilty. "Even the *Pioneer* draws a peculiar moral from this particular case, viz., the total abolition of the jury system in the Upper Provinces, if not in all India."

INDIAN EMPIRE,
2nd July 1901.

1919. The *Indian Empire's* comments on this case are much the same as those of its contemporaries. It asks the Government to take up the subject of these perverse

Ibid.

verdicts and find a remedy, and has promised in its next issue to show what that remedy should be.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd July 1901.

1920. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regards the conduct of the Judge in the Cawnpore emigration case, as a protest against the way criminal justice is administered. What

Ibid.

His Lordship said, means that a European Jury will never convict a European accused, so it is useless to order a retrial.

There was grim humour in the majority of the jury trying to force a man to accept the property which he himself had said did not belong to him.

The *Patrika* thanks the *Pioneer* for its article on the failure of the jury system in the North-Western Provinces. It only shows up the perversity of European juries. Perversity is rarely seen in the case of Indian jurors, who are always honest and conscientious. If a European accused were always to be tried by a mixed jury of Indians and Europeans, there would be no occasion for the *Pioneer* to feel humiliated at the perversity of the jurors of its own race.

BENGALIEE,
3rd July 1901.

1921. The *Bengalee* commenting on the *Pioneer's* article on the Hoff case says:—"We find that there were six Europeans and three natives on the jury. The European

Ibid.

jurors in a body brought in a verdict of 'not guilty.' The Judge agreed with the verdict of the minority, which consisted entirely of Indian jurors. After this we ask, is it possible in a place like Allahabad to trust European jurors to bring in a right verdict against a countryman of their own in any case where the aggrieved is an Indian?"

BENGALIEE,
3rd July 1901.

1922. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror*:—

Ibid.

We were under the impression that the jury in the Hoff case was composed of eight Europeans and one Indian. The *Bengalee* states that the six majority, who brought in a verdict of not guilty, was composed of European jurors. The minority of three were Indians, and Mr. Justice Aikman agreed with the verdict of the minority. We can therefore fully understand the Judge's reluctance to order a fresh trial, when no European jurors can be found in Allahabad to convict a European accused.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
7th July 1901.

1923. To *Power and Guardian* the result of this case proves beyond doubt that there is very little justice to be hoped for in

Ibid.

India in cases in which Europeans are accused of offences against the children of the soil. The Hoff case is a typical one, and the writer hopes that it will be noted by the friends of India in England, who desire to see justice done to poor helpless, voiceless Indians.

INDIAN NATION,
8th July 1901.

1924. With reference to the Hoff case, the *Indian Nation* says: This case has been discussed, but not enough. What is really wanted is some organization that will obtain,

Ibid.

publish, and keep records of all such cases in which there are failure of justice..... In a short time the gravest cases come to be forgotten, and if then a man were to complain in general terms of miscarriages of justice in cases between Europeans and Indians, he might be taken to be exciting discontent. What is suggested would require men and money, but they ought to be forthcoming if there is any reality in Indian patriotism.

1925. The *Bengalee* publishes another complaint against Mr. Foley, the late Magistrate of Burdwan, "whose official creed was to deny justice to the humble and the weak in

the event of their collision with the mighty and the strong."

A muharrir of the Collectorate laid a complaint against the Municipal Secretary, Babu Hari Nath Chakrabati. The Senior Deputy Magistrate summoned the accused under section 504, Indian Penal Code, but Mr. Foley without notice to any of the parties, transferred the case to his own file, omitting to record in writing his reasons for making the transfer. Pressure was then put upon the poor muharrir, and he was compelled to give way. Of course a warrant case under section 504 could not be withdrawn, but Mr. Foley was not to be baffled. He dismissed the case in default, though he knew that the complainant was within the precincts of his Court.

The *Bengalee* congratulates Burdwan on Mr. Foley's departure, and feels confident that in Mr. Emslie there will be a change for the better.

1926. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses satisfaction at the acquittal by the Rangoon High Court of the Chinaman Kun

The Rangoon Pagoda case. Chandu, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for insulting an English artist in the Shwe Dagôn Pagoda.

"This case," says the *Patrika*, "arose out of the condition of things as they exist in India. Englishmen are masters here, and this they can never forget."

The attitude of the Englishman towards the Indian is always patronising. How would an Englishman feel if he were patronized by a Frenchman or an American? He would naturally resent such behaviour. The natives of India feel precisely the same way.

1927. Commenting on certain remarks made by Mr. Justice Fox against the finding of the lower court in the Shwe Dagôn Pagoda case, the *Indian Mirror* says: "Self-respect

is often construed as insolence. We know it in Bengal. The Burmans are beginning to find it out..... The protracted proceedings in this case only prove that race feeling runs rampant in Burma; that European Magistrates take 'sides;' that the educated Burman is becoming an eyesore; in a word, our Bengal experience is being repeated in Burma."

1928. The *Indian Empire* deplors the frequent distinction made in our courts of law between a European and an Indian, and points to the Rangoon Pagoda case as proof of

the unsympathetic attitude assumed by European officials generally towards the natives of the soil.

(c)—Jails.

1929. Referring to the Jail Administration Report for Bengal for 1900, and to the increase of mortality in jails throughout the Province during that year, the *Amrita Bazar*

Jail mortality. *Patrika* expresses the opinion that the causes of jail mortality are to be found elsewhere than in the prevailing sickness of the year. "It is due entirely to the treatment accorded to the unfortunate wretches who, being deprived of liberty, are often times dealt with as if they were not human beings."

The *Patrika* finds from the report itself an admission that throws considerable light on the subject of jail mortality. It is that the death-rate is highest among short-termed prisoners. "Now, here," it says, "is the plague spot. This is very natural. Being unused to the hard and cheerless life in jail, the new comer pines away and finds it very difficult to withstand the rigours of jail discipline. So what is necessary is to treat the prisoners for the first six months as gently as possible. When they have been somewhat accustomed to the hardships of the jail, they may be gradually subjected to

BENGALUR,
3rd July 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th July 1901.

INDIAN NATION,
7th July 1901.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th July 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR,
PATRIKA,
10th July 1901.

stricter discipline. Among the short-term prisoners, again, there are many who are not criminals at all in the literal sense of the word. Some of them were convicted of, say, assault, or simple hurt, and so forth. And yet it is these unfortunate men who generally fall victims to jail discipline. Surely it is not justice but sheer inhumanity that a prisoner, sent to jail for three months only for a simple assault, should be compelled to forfeit his life there. And yet this happens daily. One of the means to reduce jail mortality is to treat the prisoners as leniently as possible during the first six months of their imprisonment."

(e)—*Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.*

BENGALIEE,
6th July 1901.

1930. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

Really things are getting from bad to worse; and the high-handed-
ness of municipal underlings is the talk of the town.

Municipal Zulum.

Here is a case which has been reported to us, and to which we desire to invite the attention of Mr. Greer, the Chairman:—

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE BENGALI.

SIR,—On the 27th ultimo, Inspector Garvin of the Collection Department, Calcutta Municipality, called at the firm of Baharally Molla, of 5, Dhurumtalla Street, and presented to him a bill for Rs. 61-8, addressed to Messrs. Hart Brothers. Baharally refused payment, saying that no municipal rate was due by him, and that he had no connection whatever with the firm of Messrs. Hart Brothers. Upon this Mr. Garvin started removing Baharally's moveables, notwithstanding his strong protest against this illegal and high-handed procedure. A large crowd of men gathered in front of the shop to see the *tamasha*, and business was naturally at a stand-still. Poor Baharally, to avoid further loss and disgrace, had to pay the amount with costs. Baharally has given notice to the Chairman of his intention of bringing an action for damages against the Corporation for the loss he has sustained and the disgrace he has been put to, without rhyme or reason. Now what has the *Englishman* to say to this?

GOPAL CHANDRA DUTT,

5-2, Dhurumtalla Street."

The 4th July 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th July 1901.

1931. "A resident," writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, complaining that the road from Chakri to Khujwa in Saran is in a most ruinous condition, and the bridges on the way are in a disgraceful state. The absence of

An appeal to the District Board of Saran.

a hospital in the latter village is also keenly felt. The correspondent has ascertained that the District Board has money available for remedying these grievances, and hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will order an enquiry into the matter.

BENGALIEE,
11th July 1901.

1932. The *Bengalee* has no words to express its condemnation of the procedure adopted by the Calcutta Corporation since the 1st July, of cutting off the water-supply

A barbarous procedure

of citizens who are in arrears with their rates. The Corporation of Calcutta have been responsible for the extinction of tanks in the town; and at a season when people do most need water, they solemnly resolve to deprive the citizen of their supply. The rate-payers ought not to submit without an effective protest.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

BENGALIEE,
3rd July 1901.

1933. The *Bengalee* publishes a letter from the Honorary Secretary to the

A grievance of the Barasat people.

Barrackpore People's Association to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, drawing attention to complaints of the destruction to drainage caused by the railway embankments and the pipes laid by the Calcutta Corporation along the Grand Trunk Road.

"The matter is so important," says the *Bengalee*, "that it deserves prompt and immediate attention.... We should like to know what is being done by the Government. We cannot believe that the Government is doing nothing."

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th June 1901.

1934. The *Indian Mirror* hears a complaint that the Engineer in charge of

A complaint from Midnapore.

the Canal refuses to repair the breaches made by last year's floods in the embankments on the

western side of the Roopnarain, because he suspects they have been made by the raiyats to obtain irrigation for their paddy-fields. The Commissioner has been memorialized, but nothing has as yet been done, though "the inflow of salt-water has produced such scarcity of wholesome drinking water that men, cattle and even infants are being carried off in every village by cholera and the other epidemic diseases."

(h)—General.

1935. The *Moslem Chronicle* reverts to this theme, and accusing the present Muhammadans in the Registration Department. Inspector-General of Registration of excluding Muhammadans from prize appointments in the service, gives instances of the supersession of capable Muhammadan officers by their Hindu colleagues, and lastly complains that Muhammadan officers are forced to retire at ages when their Hindu brethren are considered eligible for promotion. MOSLEM CHRONICLE.
29th June 1901.

1936. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in noticing the meeting held at Bareilly to protest against the classification of Khettris as suggested by Mr. Risley, remarks that the Commissioner of Census Operations has unconsciously thrown a bomb-shell into the midst of the native community by his attempt to solve a problem that is unsolvable. The movement is likely to do some mischief, for the general public naturally thinks that it is an official enquiry, and that Government is unwarrantably interfering in what does not concern it. AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd July 1901.

What Mr. Risley might undertake, however, is, says the writer, to obliterate, by his personal exertions and influence, the artificial boundaries which now divide one caste into many subdivisions, but to effect this he must dissociate himself from the Government.

1937. In its issue of the 4th instant, the same paper publishes a letter over the *nom de plume* "Old man," in which, among other things, the writer wishes to know the authority under which the Caste Precedence Committees are being appointed. The *Patrika* finds that they have been organised under the orders of Government, and again expresses the hope that Mr. Risley will give up the attempt to solve the problems he has set himself, and also that the Committees will follow the example of the Calcutta Committee, and leave untouched such questions as are debateable and likely to create bad blood. Mr. Risley is welcome to continue his researches, but he should avoid matters which are likely to give offence. AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th July 1901.

1938. The *Indian Mirror* refers to the organisation throughout the country of "Caste Precedence Committees," which have been brought into existence by Mr. Risley's attempt to classify castes in order of precedence, and quotes with appreciation the speech delivered at the protest meeting held at Bareilly, by Raja Ban Behari Kapur, C.I.E., the father of the Maharaja of Burdwan, who resents Mr. Risley's attempt to establish that the Khettris are not what they seem or profess to be. This humouring of the faddist, as the *Mirror* calls Mr. Risley, promises to be a source of certain danger to the Empire. INDIAN MIRROR,
5th July 1901.

1939. In another article on this subject, the *Indian Mirror* repeats its opinion that the appointment of these Committees is about the worst measure of the present Government. Conceived doubtless in good intentions, it has disturbed the peace of the entire Hindu community. The Khettris are in open revolt at their time-honoured social status having been officially impeached. No good can possibly emanate from these Committees, and the Government would be well advised to suppress them without delay. INDIAN MIRROR,
11th July 1901.

1940. Noticing that export duties on grain forms one of the suggestions made for the prevention of famine by the Anti-Famine Union, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is of opinion that as the foreigner cannot do without Indian rice, the duty on it should be made heavy. This will serve to put a check upon unlimited exportations. AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th June 1901.

BENGALÉE,
July 1901.

1941. The *Bengalée* draws the attention of the Chief Justice to the grievance of the clerks employed in the office of the Registrar of the Appellate side of the Calcutta High Court in respect of the graded system of pay. It takes many of them 10 and 20 years to reach their maximum. Stagnation of promotion has a very unhealthy moral effect, and seriously impairs the efficiency of work.

It is understood that the Chief Justice is in favour of a proposal made by Mr. Chapman in 1898, and the *Bengalée* insists on His Lordship doing his best to reduce the period to five years, the time it usually takes a clerk in every other office to draw the maximum pay of his grade.

BENGALÉE,
11th July 1901.

1942. Referring to a civil action recently brought by the Pandas of the Boidyanath temple against the Mohunt, the *Bengalée* Hindu religious endowments. says:—"The issue of the case proves that there is mal-administration of a very gross kind in the management of the temple funds." The writer thinks many such cases might be instituted, were it not for the enormous difficulties of the procedure.

The Judge has directed that a committee be appointed to supervise the management of the temple, and the Deputy Commissioner will appoint the Committee. This is something very like what Mr. Charlu wants to provide in his Bill—Government interference with Hindu religious endowment. If the Government does not object to interference of this kind, why should it hesitate to enact a law which would provide generally for the appointment of Committees of supervision in connection with all public religious endowments?

III.—LEGISLATION.

BEHAR NEWS,
19th June 1901.

1943. The *Behar News* would prefer Raja Ranjit Singh Bahadur of Nashipur to be elected as member of the Bengal Council to Maharaj Kumar Prodyat Kumar Tagore. To the general public and the zamindars of Bihar, the latter nobleman is almost unknown, while the former has already done yeoman's service.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th July 1901.

1944. Big and selfish folk, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, throw a pice in the midst of hungry crowds and see the fun. In the same way the measure of providing an elective seat for zamindars will also furnish some fun to the Government and to those who have no friendly feelings for the Indians. It will also result in infinite mischief to the country. The Government is exhorted to withdraw the privilege from the zamindars, and give it to the municipalities of the mufassal from whom it has been snatched.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BENGALÉE,
3rd July 1901.

1945. The *Bengalée* thinks it is "inexplicable why a new *sanad* should after such a lapse of time, be foisted on the Raja, of Saraikala, and all his rights in the administration of the State taken from him."

British rule in India was not introduced by the sword; it was made possible by the treaties and the strict observance of these treaties. The most important of the articles of those treaties is the one that lays down the principle of non-interference in the affairs of States, so long as they are properly administered. As no mal-administration can be proved against the Chiefs of the Chota Nagpur States, the *Bengalée* can only conclude that the mines and forests, which the Rajas have the misfortune to possess, have had something to do with the activity to which the Commissioner has been roused.

BENGALÉE,
9th July 1901.

1946. The *Bengalée*, while admitting that Government scrupulously adheres to treaty rights and obligations in its dealings with the great native States, considers that when dealing with the petty States, it is inclined to overlook all obligations and impose terms which are inconsistent with them and with the policy of the past. These remarks are made in connection with the new *sanads* issued to the Chota Nagpur Chiefs. A measure of control and interference is sought to be imposed, which is entirely at variance with the past policy of Government.

There is no reason why the Chiefs after 70 years of independence should have their power restricted, as it is by the new *sanads*, and this new policy is calculated to sap the foundations of all confidence in the declaration of the Government.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1947. The *Bengalee* has the following paragraph:—

Distress in Assam. The latest crop and weather reports, as published in the *Assam Gazette*, do not indicate anything that might cause apprehension; but we have, of late, been receiving reports which go to show that in some parts of Assam—more specially in Habiganj, Sunamganj and Karimganj—the distress of the people is already acute, and that it is all but famine there. Under the circumstances, we would most earnestly ask the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam to make an immediate inquiry and ascertain the real state of things, in order that relief, if necessary, may be afforded ere it is too late.

BENGALÉE,
7th July 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1948. *Power and Guardian* hears that a zamindar in the Southern

Army Commissions for Indians.

Presidency has just been given a Commission in the Army, and has gone with his European tutor to join the regiment to which he has been attached. This is regarded as a piece of good news, as "the one clear evidence of the suspicions entertained by our rulers in respect of the Indians, is the thorough exclusion from the army of the scions of respectable families, and the absence of the promotion of able officers to higher ranks." So long as this suspicion is entertained, the existing gulf between the rulers and the ruled will remain, and, if possible, be widened.

POWER AND GUARDIAN
30th June 1901.

1949. Referring to Lord Stanley's letter and gift of £150 for a present to Narsingh constable of Chapra case fame, &c., the *Indian Nation* says:—

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

"Our gratitude is due to the noble Lord, but we cannot help feeling that he puts us to shame. Constable Narsingh should have been helped by some Indian, and the literature of the agitation on the subject of the separation of judicial and executive functions should have been compiled at the expense of Indians."

INDIAN NATION,
1st July 1901.

1950. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says the Muhammadans of Delhi are in

Muhammadan converts to Christianity.

great excitement over the decision in a recent conversion case. One Gul Muhammad accepted Christianity, and baptized his two children, one a girl and the other a boy. His mother-in-law, however, objected and claims the right to prevent the conversion of her grandchildren. The Judge of Delhi made over the girl to the grandmother and the boy to the father. Both parties appealed, with the result that both children have now been given to the father.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd July 1901.

1951. "Through the generous exertions of Sir William Wedderburn (may God bless him)" says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, "this noble organization (the Famine Union) has

The Famine Union.

become an accomplished fact. The object of the union is to find out the causes of famine in India."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd July 1901.

The cause is known, though not admitted. The people are getting too poor to buy food. Why is it that the Indian people have no money? The Indian raiyat is the most thrifty creature in the world, and "he works at least twelve hours every day, and has no Sunday or holiday." The reason why the Indians earn less than they require, is that they have to maintain a costly rule, and this, and not providential visitations, such as drought, is the real cause of famine in India.

1952. The *Indian Mirror* tells of a meeting recently held at Bhadreswar,

Peshwari and Cabuli desperadoes.

in the Hooghly district, to protest against and denounce the actions of Cabulis and Peshwaris. Resolutions were moved and passed, and money was subscribed to induce the local authorities to have the pests removed. In one of the resolutions it is stated that on account of the alarm created by these men

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th July 1902.

some of the residents of the locality have already moved to French territory. "This," says the *Mirror*, "means an unpleasant comparison between British and French modes of administration."

BENGALIEE,
9th July 1901.

1953. "The hope of the Cabuli," says the *Bengalee*, "is centred in the Small Cause Court at Serampore," and there is no concealing the fact that the proceedings of that

The Cabuli nuisance. Court, in those cases where Cabulis are the complainants, have given grave dissatisfaction. False cases are instituted in shoals, and the people are on the verge of desperation.

BENGALIEE,
6th July 1901.

1954. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Bengalee* reports that at the instance of Mr. Alfred Nundy, Babu Bunwari Lal, Secretary, Patna District Congress Committee, called a meeting of his Committee to discuss the advisability of holding a meeting at the Patna Bar Library on Saturday, the 20th July, to discuss (1) the organisation of the Provincial and Local Committees, and (2) the appointment of a paid agent for the Province.

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd July 1901.

1955. The *Indian Mirror* thinks that ill-health has converted Dr. Welldon to downright bigotry.

Dr. Welldon's "zeal." "He thought he could by a few sweet words, convert Indians to his religion, because they did not resist his propoganda, and admitted that Christianity was not devoid of certain true fundamental facts. But when he attempted by and bye to use missionary zeal, and more than missionary zeal, his pace was far too quick, and he was left alone at the fence Since he cannot convert India to Christianity, he seeks to convince his countrymen that India can never be truly loyal to English rule till all Indians are made Christians."

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th July 1901.

1956. The *Indian Mirror* says: "Wherever two or three groups meet, their talk is about the Bishop, his ambition to persuade or compel India to acknowledge Christ as completely as she has acknowledged the dominancy of the British rule."

Unwise acts that make towards disruption.

For this is what the Bishop has conveyed in his last fulmination. A vernacular paper has gone so far as to suggest that the Bible will be made a subject of compulsory study in all Indian educational institutions. The *Patriot* thinks that religion should be the basis of all instruction in our educational institutions, but the Christian creed or dogma need not be the particular religion selected.

Another act which the *Mirror* looks upon as making for the dismemberment of the Empire is the appointment of the Caste Precedence Committees. It is hardly possible that the Census Commissioner has appointed these Committees without the previous consent of the Viceroy, and the effect has been to create infinite suspicion in the minds of all classes and sections of the Hindu community.

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd July 1901.

1957. The following appears in the *Indian Mirror*:—

Indians called to the Bar. The newest mail item announces the fact of as many as fourteen Indian youths being called to the Bar on the previous Wednesday. This is no indication of the worth or talent among our countrymen, but of a deliberate and sinful waste of it.

BENGALIEE,
9th July 1901.

1958. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of the Chairman of the Corporation to the great inconvenience and possible danger to the public caused by the manner in which tram lines are repaired during the day, and cites the case of the Chitpur Road, which important and narrow thoroughfare is obstructed by stones displaced at different places. The Commissioner of Police and Mr. Greer would be consulting public convenience if they insisted on repairs of tram tracks being carried out only at night.

A great public inconvenience.

BENGALIEE,
9th July 1901.

1959. Under this title the *Bengalee* publishes two accounts of a case of assault on a Bengali ledger-keeper of the *Englishman's* office. The latter's statement is to the effect that the Manager and Sub-Editor severely assaulted him for protesting against the former's order fining him a month's pay in connection with an offence for which he was not responsible.

A regrettable incident.

The other version is furnished by the Bengali cashier of the *Englishman's* office, who in a letter to the Editor of the *Bengalee*, exonerates the Sub-Editor from all connection with the case, and explains that the Manager was first struck on the face by the ledger-keeper without any other provocation than that he ordered the latter to leave his room. This naturally led the Manager to retaliate.

1960. The *Bengalee* devotes half a column of its paper to an account of a complaint laid before the Northern Division of the Presidency Magistrate against Mr. A. C. Lawrie, of the firm of Balmer, Lawrie & Co. Complainant was one Goshto Behari Chatterji, an assistant in the firm, and his complaint was that Mr. Lawrie had given him a slap, which caused him great pain, and made it difficult for him to hear for two hours afterwards.

BENGALIEE,
11th July 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 13th July 1901.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L.P.

